

OWEN BROWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
July 21, 2009
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Approved: August 18, 2009

The Board of Directors of the Owen Brown Community Association, Inc. conducted its regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 at the Owen Brown Community Center. Board Chair, Andy Stack; Board Members, Ed Cosentino, Summer Romack; CA representative, Pearl Atkinson Stewart, OBCA manager, Nancy L. Thomas; and Recording Secretary, Rachel Eisenhauer, were in attendance. Board member Gracie Bradford joined the meeting in progress at 8:30pm.

Mr. Stack called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. *Adopt agenda* - Agenda approved by consensus as amended.

2. *Approval of minutes* –

a. June 16, 2009 minutes approved by consensus as amended.

3. *Invited Guests*

a. Columbia Association (CA) representatives presented an update on the Lake Elkhorn dredging project. All of the permits for the project have been granted. CA received 28 proposals for the project; however, only three bids ultimately qualified for serious consideration and CA was forced to reject all three due to costs. CA is moving forward to rebid. The specifications will be changed somewhat. CA reviewed the changes with a map of Lake Elkhorn and in answer to questions, reviewed the areas on the maps where the changes and dredging will occur. CA requested the Board's assistance with community notification. The Board concurs to move forward and agreed to help with community notification. Nancy will advertise date of community meeting in the Observer.

b. Mike Fowler from BGE and Richard Johnstone of IVM (Integrated Vegetation Management) partners presented information on the land restoration in Owen Brown transmission right of way involving Integrated Vegetation Management. This pilot program and plans were developed in conjunction with an Owen Brown task force , CLEER, because of resident concerns about the landscaping of the electric transmission right-of-way in the community. Richard Johnstone presented a slide show on the information on the Integrated Vegetation Management. The entire project is aimed at ensuring the development of natural vegetation in the right of way without interfering with the electrical power lines. Another resident questioned the ruts left in the play area and in back of the fields. BGE stated that this was caused by the heavy equipment on the wet ground. Summer had a question about the use of a Round Up type herbicide. Mr. Johnstone explained that it only stays on the top of the soil for less than 30 days. Pearl inquired when the program would begin. Mr. Johnstone replied that it was scheduled to begin fall 09. The project is supported by CLEER and Elaine Pardoe of CLEER was present to voice her support. Andy thanked Mr. Fowler and Mr. Johnstone for their presentation.

c. Geoff Glazer of Kimco spoke about County Council Bill 29. He discussed the bill and the numerous and substantial amendments and his appreciation for the work of the Village Board. He stated that the results of this bill should ensure the viability of the Village Centers for the next 20-40 years. Pearl commented on how important this revitalization is to residents of each community. She also asked a question about the petition process. Mr. Glazer stated that any petition for changes would have to come from a property owner.

d. Officer S. Miller of the Howard County Police along with three other Howard County Police Officers – Sgt. Eric Brown, Lt. Bob Castor and Lt. Brooke Donovan discussed the recent shooting at Cradlerock School and general community safety as well as the opening of the new Owen Brown Community Resource Satellite Police Office in the Owen Brown Village Center

Officer Miller explained that there had been a shooting at the school. The latest information is that was a fight during the game. There has been an arrest on an assault that occurred during the incident but there has been no arrest on the shooting. Currently there is a \$1000 reward for any information which leads to an arrest on the shooting. The police believe that the shooting was not gang related. Summer asked whether the shooting was drug related. Officer Miller stated that no, the shooting was not drug related and all the information gathered by the police point to this shooting being a fight between local kids. The police also discussed that they are working on several initiatives. They are working with the school system to install surveillance cameras at the school. The police are increasing patrol, increasing visibility, increasing their daily contact in the community, increasing bike patrol officers, they are opening a tip line and will patrol the community in marked and unmarked cars.

A resident spoke about the drug paraphernalia on the path ways and graffiti. Andy responded by stating there is actually a section on the Owen Brown web page to report graffiti issues. He also stated that the Police Satellite office has been a two year project not just a project in response to the shooting incident. Pearl expressed

concern for the loitering. The police stated that they are working with the village center shops on banning loitering and then arresting for trespassing. Another resident expressed concern about escalating thefts and fear in the community. Another resident expressed disbelief that the shooting was not gang related and expressed additional concerns about the safety of her children. Another resident wanted to begin and participate in a neighborhood watch. Pearl mentioned that the community should be involved. Ed will write a letter to the School Board encouraging placement of cameras at Cradlerock School. Another resident discussed the street captain program. Another resident expressed her concern that the real problem is that the kids are bored and have nothing to do and that needs to be addressed.

The Howard County Police concluded by encouraging the residents to call them with problems and issues and also to encourage the community to become involved.

4. *Resident Speak out* – Andy Stack notes that resident speak out occurred during the discussions with the invited guests.

5. *Consent agenda* - none

6. *Covenant decisions* –

a. The board discusses the appointment of William Cain as the new RAC member. Gracie makes a motion to appoint William Cain as a member of RAC; Ed 2nds. Approved by consensus 4/0/0.

b. Gracie made a motion that a 15 day notice be sent to the owners of the following properties and that if there is no response, the property be referred to the ARC requesting to join CA and file suit, request a notation be placed on the assessment file and denial of the use of CA facilities. The motion was seconded by Summer and the motion approved by consensus 5/0/0.

- i. 7380 Broken Staff– removal of chain link fence
- ii. 7313 Carved Stone – remove oversized shed
- iii. 7445 Broken Staff – remove trash and bulk items
- iv. 6874 Happy Heart – remove over grown vegetation obstructing sidewalk

7. *Financial decisions* –

a. FY 2009 4th Quarter Report – After a brief discussion Fourth Quarter Variance Explanations to FY09, Summer makes a motion to accept the report and Ed seconds. Report is approved by consensus 4/0/0.

b. FY 2009 year end report – After a brief discussion, Summer makes a motion to accept the report and Ed seconds. Report is approved by consensus 4/0/0.

c. Neighborhood Ride – Board to release ½ of funds previously approved to Neighbor Ride.

8. *CA/County decisions* –

a. Andy has prepared a short draft letter to submit to the Council in regard to Council Bill 29 specifically not supporting Amendments H, L and Q.

9. *Other decisions* – none

10. *Reports* –

a. *Covenants*- Gordon’s report is attached and now only includes new or pending violations.

b. *CA Representative Manager* – Pearl discusses the potential cost overrun for dredging Lake Elkhorn. She also mentions that the Columbia International Day was well attended. Pearl also suggests that the new CA President should be invited to the October Village Board meeting.

c. *Manager* – Nancy’s Manager’s report is attached.

- i. International Day was a great success and well attended
- ii. Nancy attended the Village Manager meeting with GGP and Nancy Tucker.
- iii. ECP wonders whether their items will be stored in truck or storage facility during renovations.
- iv. Dorita is doing well working for “Earn a Membership.
- v. Observer will be delivered by the Boy Scouts as well as Venture Crew
- vi. The CA yearly inspection went fine.
- vii. Nancy and Richard will be attending HCC classes in the fall.
- viii. The September 1st Board meeting will be held at Parkview.
- ix. Unleash Your Talent went well with 2 groups on Tues. July 21st

d. *Committees* –

- i. Communication Committee – Summer stated that there is now an area on the website for news announcements. She is still working on the list server from People tree.
- ii. Street Captains – This program will be present at the National Night Out.

- iii. Village Center Master Plan – Andy will write an article for the newsletter about the Village Center Master Plan and requesting volunteers for the Steering Committee.

11. *Discussions*

Action Item Review-

a.

12. *Board Speak Out –*

a. Gracie asked about the Village Board Shirts. The Board will discuss the issue of Village Board shirts at a September board meeting.

b. Pearl mentioned that she thought the County Council would protect the interests of Columbia residents.

c. Ed loves the new signs.

d. Summer mentioned the Owen Brown face book page is up and running.

13. *Chair Report –*

a. Andy will write thank you note to BGE

b. Ed will write to Board of Education to encourage surveillance cameras at Cradlerock School.

c. Andy handed out the population growth report.

d. Andy requested suggestion from the Board for fiscal year 2011-2012 budget. The board came up with the following ideas: Lake dredging; Rain garden; watershed; Village Center plan; Upgrade Dasher Green pool lighting.

14. Adjournment at 10:05 pm by consensus (4/0/0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Eisenhauer, Recording Secretary

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Andy to write thank you letter to BGE. Andy to write an article for the newsletter about the Village Center Master Plan and the need for Steering Committee members. Andy to write short letter to Council on Council Bill 29.**
2. **Ed to write letter the Howard County Board of Education encouraging installment of surveillance cameras at Cradlerock School**
3. **Nancy to contact Steve Sattler regarding People Tree list serve, put date of community safety meeting in Observer.**

Owen Brown Village Board Meeting
July 21, 2009
AGENDA (as amended)

1. Adopt agenda – 7:00 pm

2. Approval of minutes – 5 minutes

a. June 16,2009

3. Invited Guests – 30 minutes

a. CA representatives to discuss the Lake Elkhorn Dredging Project.

b. Richard Johnstone and Michael Flower of BGE to discuss Lake Elkhorn and Owen Brown

c. Jeff Glazer of Kimco to discuss County Council Bill 29

d. Officer S. Miller of the Howard County Police to discuss the recent shooting at Cradlerock School and general community safety.

4. Resident speak-out – 10 minutes

5. Consent agenda – 0 minutes

6. Covenant decisions – 5 minutes

7. Financial decisions – 10 minutes

a. FY 2009 4th quarter report

b. FY 2009 yearend report

c. Neighbor Ride funds

8. CA/County decisions – 0 minutes

9. Other decisions – 0 minutes

10. Reports – 25 minutes

a. Covenant

b. CA Representative

c. Manager

d. Committees

i. Communication Committee – Website update

ii. Street Captains

iii. Village Center Master Plan

11. Discussions – 15 minutes

a. Action Item Review

12. Board speak-out – 15 minutes

13. Chair report – 10 minutes

14. Adjournment